

REMARKS

In view of the fact that allowable subject matter has been indicated to be present in the case, an earnest effort has been made to bring the application to issue without delay.

1. The Examiner's acknowledgment with compliance of the requirements for priority in paragraph 12 of the Office Action and the acceptance of the drawing filed 3 January 2002 are appreciated.

2. The specification has been objected to and a substitute specification has been supplied. The changes made include those suggested by the Examiner and others which Applicants have found to be desirable. A cross reference to related applications has been supplied.

The insert to the specification at A derives from original claims 3 and 4 and hence were part of the original disclosure.

3. Claims 1 to 7 have been rejected only on formal grounds under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112. Otherwise they have been considered to be allowable. These claims have been amended to eliminate the informalities noted by the Examiner and hence outright allowance of claims 1 to 7 is in order.

New claim 8 has been added to define the apparatus in slightly different terms and covers an apparatus for steam misting a spun curtain (7) of filaments. This apparatus comprises a

spinning beam (1) having rectangular nozzles (2) from which the curtain (7) of filaments issues into a spinning chamber (8) below the nozzles. The nozzles are flanked by heating chambers (10) a piping loop (9) in one of these chambers (10) supplies superheated steam brought to a spinning temperature by passage through the loop.

An elongated steam distributor (13) extends longitudinally along a longitudinal side of the spinning chamber (8) below the nozzles (2) and opens into the spinning chamber through a narrow slot (16).

A steam outlet bar (12) defines with the elongated distributor (13) a distribution chamber (15) wider than the slot (16) and connecting with the slot (16) along the length thereof.

The steam outlet bar (12) has a single opening (19), (see especially FIG. 3) which is centrally of the outlet bar and the steam distributor bar (13) and receives steam from the loop (9) and discharges that steam into the distribution chamber (15).

As the Examiner will see this claim has been directed specifically to the features which in paragraph 7 of the Office Action have been indicated by the Examiner to justify allowance. Claim 8 is thus deemed to be allowable together with claims 1 through 7 and an early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enc: Substitute Specification
Marked up copy of Specification

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